

Dear Sirs/Madames,

In regards to S.B. 1088-An Act Concerning Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disability that will require DDS Commissioner Morna Murray to develop a plan by December 15, 2015 for closing Southbury Training School and all state-run facilities for I/DD individuals:

Our sister Sandra has been a lifelong resident of STS due to her Autism, will never be 'cured' but continues to receive necessary care and monitoring 24 hours per day-365 days per year. This cannot be provided by her family. The care she has and continues to receive at STS is more than necessary due to her intellectual disability-she does not function as a normal adult and in fact has the mental capacity of a three year old child.

Community placement is not an option- I have seen first hand the deplorable conditions that exist in group homes, 'for profit' businesses that are in many cases substandard, understaffed, lacking in the training and education provided by STS staff.

Our sister would be uprooted from a safe friendly and very familiar environment that provides the medical care and support she needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ronald M. Blanchard-Guardians/Family 3/15/15

Ann Genereux

Susan Lamphier